z^tb December THE LADY EFFINGHAM

It is said that the Lady Effingham (wife of the Lord William Howard), as she was playing at shuttlecock, upon a sudden felt herself somewhat, and thereupon retiring herself into a chamber was brought to bed of a child without a midwife, she never suspecting that she had been with child This pla> at shuttle-cock is become so much in request at Court that the making of shuttlecocks is almost grown a trade in London

25 *£ *December* MR RICHARD HAWKINS' RETURN.

Mr Richard Hawkins, son to the late Sir John, is now re-turned to England, having been a prisoner with the Spaniards these nine years and treated with most cruel usage

27 *th December* THE QUEEN'S HEALTH

The Queen doth now bear show of human infirmity too fast for that evil which we shall get by her death, and too slow for that good which she shall get by her releasement from pains and misery. Of late Sir John Hanngton was in the presence. Her Majesty enquired of some matters which he had written, and as she was pleased to note his fanciful brain he was not Tinheedful to feed her humour and read some verses , whereat she smiled once and said, * When thou dost feel creeping Tune at thy gate, these fooleries will please thee less , I am past my relish for such matters Thou seest my bodily meat doth not suit me well, I have eaten but one ill tasted cake since yesternight * She rated most grievously at some who minded not to bring up certain matters of account Several men have been sent to, and when ready at hand her Highness hath dismissed them in anger , for who shall say, ' Your High-ness hath forgotten ? [5]

This past year the Lord Admiral's men have played these new plays *Too Good to be True* (by Chettle, HatKway and Smith) , *The Spanish Fig > Malcolm, King of Scots* , *Love farts Friend-ship* (by Chettle and Smith) , *The Bristol Tragedy* , *Tobias* (by Chettle), *Cottar's Fall* (by Drayton, Dekkei, Middleton, Munday and Webster) , *Richard Crookback* (by Jonson) ; *The Danish Tragedy* (by Chettle), *The Widotfs Charm* (by